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a kind of parody upon that old stanza, originally appropriated to Bleddyn ab Cynvyn :—

“ Bleddyn ab Cynvyn bob cwys
Ei hun biodd hen Bowys.”

And it is well known, that the said Bleddyn held that division of the Principality by right of royalty, and not by bardic eminency ; and the drift of expression in the above stanza naturally and forcibly conveys the same idea. The alteration, which it underwent in the present instance, does not in the least affect its scope ; consequently, it must still convey the same notion to all who read it, not having been previously informed of the circumstance connected therewith. For instance, ask a person in some of the remotest counties, utterly ignorant of the late transactions at Wrexham, to unriddle the said motto, and I will venture to assert, that he will tell you that NANTGLYN must have been a potent prince, or landed proprietor, of Powys. The same inference must, naturally, be made by all who read it in a future generation ; for what is there in the expression that can infer the most distant idea of bardic eminence ? Would it not have been more appropriate to say something to this purport—

Bardd Nantglyn, y glanddyn glwys,
Cawd ar ben cadair Bowys.

Or, rather, could not one of the bards, either in town or country, forge a new stanza altogether for the purpose ?

Thinking, that, as an individual of the Powys Society, I had a right to say thus much on the subject, I shall now recommend it to the consideration of the rest of the fraternity, and the public at large.

I am, Sir, &c.

Augst 30th, 1821.

A POWYSIAN.

III. COMETS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CAMBRO-BRITON.

MR. EDITOR.—The Welsh Chronicles give an account of two remarkable comets ; one in the year 1094, and the other in 1105*.

Your insertion of these two dates, Sir, may attract the at-

* Arch. of Wales, vol. ii. pp. 405. 422. 536.

tention of some astronomical reader, so as to examine, whether the appearance of either of the comets thus recorded coincides with any of the periods calculated as to the revolutions of those bodies.

An extraordinary *Aurora Borealis* is noticed in the same Chronicles, as having happened in the years 710, 1030, and 1114*.

HANESAI.

IV. QUESTIONS ON THE WELSH LAWS †.

1. WAS the size of the Welsh acre the same, or greater or less, than the English?

2. Is there any reason to suppose, that the division, contained in the Laws of Howel, of *Cantrevs*, *Commots*, *Manors*, &c, extended all over England before the Saxons took it from them?

3. Does the term *Arghwydd* mean the Lord of the Land, or the *Natu Maximus*, who had the *dominium rectum*, in opposition to the *Filius Natu Minimus*, who held the *usufruct*, but was not the feudal proprietor?—See Howel by Wotton, l. ii. p. 143. § 8. and l. iv. p. 318.

4. What was the title of these *Natu Maximi*: had they any powers peculiar to themselves: did they sit like our House of Lords, which are the eldest of the families?

5. What was the power of the *Pencenedl*?

6. In Howel every *Cantrev* contained 100 *villæ* or 10 tythings in English.—See Howel, 157. Is it not probable, that the Welsh Hundred, or *Cantrev*, was the foundation of our Hundreds, and perhaps the countries of the old Welsh Principalities or Kingdoms,—the Welsh taking duodecimal divisions of Manors in the Hundreds, and the English the decimal of Tythings, but both regarding the *villa*, which, in Saxon, was occasionally called a Hyde?

7. Is there supposed to be extant any account of the coronation of Arthur, or any British kings subsequent to the time of Constantine the Great?

* Ib. pp. 391. 506. 548.

† We are solicited by a correspondent to give insertion to these Questions, in the hope that some of our readers may be able to supply the necessary information.—ED.